

# Book Reviews

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**OCCUPATIONAL SKIN DISEASE**—Robert M. Adams, MD, Clinical Professor, Department of Dermatology, School of Medicine, Stanford University, Stanford, Calif. Grune & Stratton, Inc., 111 Fifth Ave., New York, NY 10003, 455 pages, \$69.50.

Dr Adam's new book contains a wealth of useful information about a subject that dermatologists confront daily. His earlier treatise, entitled *Occupational Contact Dermatitis*, (1969) dealt primarily with the narrowed subject of contact dermatitis. This present work, although mainly concerned with contact dermatitis, expands into many other areas of work-related cutaneous disease and contains more than 200 additional pages of information. Special chapters by guest authors deal superbly with contact urticaria, occupational nail disorders and medicolegal aspects of occupational cutaneous problems. Up-to-date facts about occupational skin diseases are difficult to find in the literature. This text proved to be very well referenced, which was refreshing.

New information abounds throughout the book. The chapter on acne leads the reader through the days when "oil acne" was common through the newer findings associated with dioxin. Occupational skin cancer is similarly dealt with from Percivall Pott's observation regarding scrotal cancers in chimney sweeps through the latest effects of ionizing radiation in industry. Dr Adams states that even though dangerous exposure to radiation has been decreased in medicine the hazards have broadened in industry. The industrial uses of ionizing radiation include "curing plastics, sterilizing foods and drugs, testing metals and manufacturing color televisions." Both localized and generalized radiation injury can be seen. Mycosis fungoides may occur more frequently in persons who work in construction and manufacturing. The Food and Drug Administration has banned methyl methacrylate, but butyl and ethyl methacrylate probably will produce as much of a problem with "sculptured nails" because of their similar chemical structure. "Copy paper" dermatitis is due to a diazonium compound in the paper used by the copier. Substitution of an electrostatic copy method, such as used by IBM or Xerox, will alleviate the problem. These are but a few of the many useful new points of information found in this delightful text.

Besides numerous useful tidbits of information that can be put to instant use by practitioners, academicians and researchers, Dr Adams has given us an approach to dealing with occupational medicine in a very effective manner. First he provides a very complete form for data collecting which can easily be adapted to clinical practice if an occupational origin for skin disease is suspected. The tools of a dermatologist used in these evaluations are briefly reviewed (the use of a potassium hydroxide mount, fungal cultures, bacterial cultures, biopsy, patch testing and clinical photographs are mentioned). Patch testing is dealt with in detail. The correct method for inspecting a manufacturing plant in which workers have dermatologic problems without offending the management is tactfully dealt with. The medicolegal aspects of occupational disease and the role of governmental agencies are very thoroughly and clearly explained. Treatment, prevention and rehabilitation of patients are covered in a chapter devoted to these sub-

jects. A very complicated process, the approach to an evaluation of occupational disease, is covered beautifully.

A few areas of this book I particularly liked were the section on patch test chemicals and suggested concentrations for patch testing, the listed sources of skin cleansers, protective clothing and creams and hypoallergenic gloves and boots, the trade names for numerous rubber chemicals and the descriptions of various occupations along with the irritants and allergens encountered in each. Numerous other areas such as the section on plants were also interesting, clear, concise and helpful. I found only one small mistake in the section on nails. Beau's lines were described as white transverse lines rather than transverse depressed grooves—a very small criticism for an extremely well done and useful text.

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**DISEASES OF THE GASTROINTESTINAL TRACT AND LIVER**—David J. C. Shearman, PhD, MBChB, FRCP (Ed), FRACP, Professor of Medicine, University of Adelaide; and Niall D. C. Finlayson, PhD, MBChB, MRCP (Lond), FRCP(Ed), Consultant Physician, The Royal Infirmary, Edinburgh and Honorary Senior Lecturer, Department of Therapeutics and Clinical Pharmacology, University of Edinburgh, Edinburgh. Churchill Livingstone, 1560 Broadway, New York, NY 10036, 1982. 974 pages, \$79.00.

This is a comprehensive textbook on gastroenterology and hepatology by two authors, one from Edinburgh and the other from Adelaide; they have written most of the chapters themselves. Seven chapters were written by surgeons and a specialist on tropical diseases. This makes for very pleasant reading, the style being even throughout the text. The text is arranged in a pragmatic, practice-oriented fashion. The book is lavishly illustrated; the references are carefully selected, recent and critically annotated.

The authors start out with four chapters on gastroenterological procedures. A critical appraisal of the limitations of the methods is missing; the authors still list colonoscopy preparation with mannitol which is well known to be dangerous; this is only mentioned *pari passu*. A chapter each is devoted to the mouth and the esophagus; seven chapters are devoted to the stomach and five to the small intestine. A surgeon's contribution then covers the acute abdomen and intestinal ischemia. Nineteen chapters are devoted to the liver. Some current controversies, such as penicillamine treatment of primary biliary cirrhosis, are insufficiently addressed. The pancreas, with only one chapter, is treated rather too briefly. The book concludes with eight chapters on the colon, stomal care and anorectal conditions.

Most chapters are preceded by some considerations of pathophysiology. This again is practice-oriented and, due to the limited space, often oversimplified. However, the excellent referencing will guide the reader on the right track.

This book will be valuable to internists and family physicians. It should be available to housestaff and medical students as a reference.

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